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*The Connecticut School Counselor Association (CSCA) is the organization in the state that promotes leadership and creates a professional school counseling identity. This is achieved by connecting, supporting, and empowering school counselors through professional learning and advocacy.*

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**Testimony of Kiley Flynn**  
**School Counselor, Griswold High School**  
*in opposition of*

**S.B. 1095 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

Education Committee - March 1, 2023

Representative Currey, Senator McCrory, Representative McCarty, Senator Berthel, Vice Chair Leeper, Vice Chair Winfield and esteemed members of the Education Committee, my name is [NAME] and I am a [PROFESSION] in [NAME OF TOWN/DISTRICT] and [INCLUDE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP IF APPLICABLE]. Thank you for the opportunity to offer **testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 1095 - AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.**

**Senate Bill 1095 adds that (ii) that individuals who are school counselors, social workers, psychologists, aides or other staff members and have appropriate training and ongoing supports may be assigned the duties of a school resource officer.** This proposed bill is concerning to me as a School Counselor. The role of a School Counselor conflicts with the role of an SRO. Being a primary factor security and safety of the school building is not a duty that I have been adequately trained for. Additionally, SROs often are involved in interrupting violence or issuing discipline in a school. School Counselors generally stay far away from discipline as it can significantly impact the relationships that we need to build in order to do the work that we are trained to do. Having to confront significant offenses to school expectations in the way that an SRO does directly impacts the work that we do as School Counselors. This bill is very vague as to what duties of the SRO can be assigned to a School Counselor. This is concerning and will impact how we are able to service students. School Counselors are already limited in the support that they can provide to students due to high caseloads and additional requirements always being added to our plates. In my district, I feel fortunate that we have an SRO whom I work collaboratively with. Our jobs are very different, but we support one another frequently. Most often, my SRO supports me in completing home visits for students we are concerned about due to chronic absenteeism or other familial concerns. He is a great reference point when I am supporting students who are navigating complicated familial or personal circumstances. The respect that I have for him is unwavering, and I fully acknowledge that I could not ever fill his role due to the lack of training that I have for the responsibilities that he maintains.

Asking School Counselors to complete the duties of the SRO is neglectful due to the fact that School Counselors already wear so many "hats" in schools. We are academic interventionists, we help students navigate social and personal challenges, we deal with crises, we help students apply for careers and college, we serve on many committees, we attend many meetings. There are days that I do not drink water or eat lunch because I am consumed from the minute I walk in the door through the minute I leave, often at least an hour past my contractual obligation. Adding more workload to School Counselors

in CT shows that lack of consideration to the overflowing plates that we already manage. Adding more responsibilities is not appropriate and does not allow us to meet the needs of all of our students. Despite the fact that my current caseload (changing every day due to active enrollments) is 215 students, I still am unable to meet the needs of those students due to the countless responsibilities that I have. Please do not add more to what's already not fully working.

**I would ask that you modify this bill. School counselors should not be doing the work of the School Resource Officer as it is in direct conflict with the work and role of the school counselor.** Our roles are different. Trying to merge the two is contradictory to the professional reputation and clarification that we are working to build.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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